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## **Indian lawyer Colin Gonsalves Wins Swedish Right Livelihood Award**

- Colin Gonsalves has been chosen for a prestigious rights award in Sweden
- He is a senior Indian advocate and will be honoured for his innovative use of public interest litigation in securing fundamental human rights for India's most marginalised and vulnerable citizens.
- He will share the award and the prize money worth over USD 300,000 (SEK 3 million) with two other laureates — Khadija Ismayilova from Azerbaijan and Robert Bilott from the US
- The three laureates were chosen from 102 nominations from 51 countries.

## **About Right Livelihood Award**

- It is widely known as the 'Alternative Nobel Prize'.
- It is an international award to "honour and support those offering practical and exemplary answers to

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the most urgent challenges facing us today.

- The prize was established in 1980 by German-Swedish philanthropist Jakob von Uexkull

## List of Indian Awardees of Right Livelihood Award

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- 1984: Self-Employed Women's Association / Ela Bhatt
- 1985: Lokayan / Rajni Kothari
- 1986: Ladakh Ecological Development Group / Helena Norberg-Hodge
- 1986: Chipko movement
- 1990: Narmada Bachao Andolan
- 1993: Vandana Shiva
- 1994: Dr. H. Sudarshan / VGKK (Vivekananda Girijana Kalyana Kendra (for working of soliga tribes in MM hills))
- 1996: People's Science Movement of Kerala (Kerala Sasthra Sahithya Parishad)
- 2003: Swami Agnivesh / Asghar Ali Engineer
- 2006: Ruth Manorama

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- 2007: Krishnammal Jagannathan and Sankaralingam Jagannathan LAFTI

## **Manik Bhide Chosen for Bhimsen Joshi Award**

- Renowned vocalist Manik Bhide has been chosen for the prestigious Bharat Ratnaatna Pandit Bhimsen Joshi award for the year 2017-18 for her contribution in the field of music.
- Bhimsen Joshi is the state award of Maharashtra Government which consists of R.s five lakh in cash a plaque and citation
- The selection committee comprised Culture Minister Vinod Tawde, Pandit Keshav Ginde, Nathrao Neralkar and Kamlabai Bhonde.
- Earlier, Kishori Amonkar, Pandit Jasraj, Prabha Atre, pandit Ram Narayan and Parvin Sultana were honoured with this award.

## **About Manik Joshi**

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- She was born in Kolhapur in 1935
- She had received encouragement from her parents to take up classical singing and later she became a singer of Jaipur-Atroli Gharana'.
- After her marriage, she shifted to Mumbai and continued her classical singing under the guidance of doyen of classical music (late) Kishori Amonkar.
- Bhide was invited by the All India Radio (AIR) as well from time to time to present some compositions, as per the communication.

### **Gujarat To be First Big State to use EVMs with VVPAT**

- Gujarat is all set to become the second state after Goa to use the VVPAT system for assembly elections
- Electronic voting machines with voter-verifiable paper audit trail (VVPAT) facility will be used during the upcoming Gujarat elections.

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- The Election Commission (EC) will conduct an awareness drive to make people familiar with these VVPAT machines
- VVPAT machines will be attached to the EVMs
- These machines will allow voters to verify if their vote has gone to the intended candidate.
- This would ensure transparency in the voting process
- Goa was the first state that used VVPAT machines in elections

## About VVPT

- Voter-Verified Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) is a method of providing feedback to voters.
- It's completely an independent verification system.
- It is a printer-like machine attached to every EVM that allows voters to verify that their vote has been cast correctly.
- Once a voter presses button of his choice in the EVM, a printed paper appears containing the name of the candidate and poll symbol so that he can verify it.

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- After the voter views the receipt it goes inside a container linked to the EVM, which can be accessed only by the polling officers.
- This latest system is one step further towards prevention of electoral fraud.

### **TK Viswanathan Committee Recommendation to Deal with Hate Speech**

- The home ministry is examining the recommendations of TK Viswanathan committee formed to propose new laws or amendments to deal with hate speech on the internet
- The committee submitted its report on section 66AA of IT Act.
- The committee was TK headed by Viswanathan who served as director of ADR, ICADR and as secretary general of the Lok Sabha
- After the Supreme Court of India struck down section 66A of the Information Technology (IT) Act, the committee was formed

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## **Recommendations of the committee**

- It is suggested that section 78 of the IT Act needs to be replaced and Section 153 and 505A of the Indian Penal Code need to be amended.
- Section 78 primarily dealt with capacity building and needs to be relooked at with a view to sensitize the officers of law enforcement agencies. Under it, a police officer of the rank of inspector or above was empowered to investigate offences.
- The committee has recommended that each state should have a State Cyber Crime Coordinator which should be an officer not below the rank of Inspector General of Police.
- The committee has also suggested that each district to have a District Cyber Crime Cell headed by an officer not below the rank of sub-inspector of police.

**India International Science Fest to be Held in Chennai**

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- The third edition of India International Science Festival will be held from October 13-16 at IIT-Chennai.
- Top scientists from the government are expected to participate in the event.
- It is going to be organised by the Ministry of Earth Sciences, Ministry of Science and Technology and Vijnana Bharati (VIBHA)
- The festival will have a thematic session on 'Deep Ocean Research'
- An attempt to set up a Guinness World Record by holding a "largest biology class" of 1000 students will be made.
- This is the third IIS festival.
- The first two were held at IIT-Delhi and National Physical Laboratory, Delhi.

### **Niti Aayog to Organise Global Entrepreneurship Summit in Hyderabad**

- Niti Aayog will host the eighth annual Global Entrepreneurship



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Summit in Hyderabad on  
November 28-30.

- The event will be hosted in partnership with the US administration
- This is the first time the Global Entrepreneurship Summit is being held in South Asia
- The theme for this year's summit -- Women First, Prosperity for All
- It will celebrate entrepreneurship in all its strength, diversity and entirety.
- The four primary focus areas of Global Entrepreneurship Summit 2017 are healthcare and life sciences, digital economy and financial technology, energy and infrastructure, and media and entertainment.
- GES is the preeminent annual entrepreneurship gathering that convenes emerging entrepreneurs, investors and supporters from around the world.
- GES 2017 will create an environment that empowers

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innovators, particularly women, to take their ideas to the next level.

- GES empowers entrepreneurs to pitch their ideas, build partnerships, secure funding, innovate, and find their target customers -- creating new goods and services that will transform societies.

## **ARPAN Version 3.0 for Defence Security Corps Rolled Out**

- Defence Security Corps personnel have got a new software called 'ARPAN'
- The software is developed to ease personal documentation and all issues related to their progression.

The ARPAN software consists of seven modules.

- It facilitates end to end human resource, financial management of Junior Commissioned Officers and Other Ranks with major functional advantages of timely processing of postings, promotion the , release of salary, publication of personal occurrences and processing of

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pension has been rolled out by DCOAS (IS &T) for the Defence Security Corps.

- It provides valuable data for decision and policy making for the Defence Security Corps Directorate. Defence Security Corps troops would be able to access their service profiles, statement of accounts and adjustment of allowances at par with the troops of Indian Army.
- The software has been developed by Tech Mahindra.

## **5 New Governors Appointed by President Kovind**

- President Ram Nath Kovind has appointed five governors for the states of Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Assam, Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh.
- Lieutenant Governor for Andaman and Nicobar Islands was also appointed.

## **List of governors**

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- Banwarilal Purohit: Governor of Tamil Nadu.
- Brigadier (Retd.) BD Mishra: Governor of Arunachal Pradesh
- Satya Pal Malik: Governor of Bihar
- Jagdish Mukhi: Governor of Assam
- Ganga Prasad: Governor of Meghalaya

## Selection Process of Governor

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Article 157 and Article 158 of the Constitution of India specify eligibility requirements for the post of governor.

They are as follows:

### A governor must:

- be a citizen of India.
- be at least 35 years of age.
- not be a member of the either house of the parliament or house of the state legislature.
- not hold any other office of profit.

## Powers and functions

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- The primary function of the governor is to preserve, protect and defend the constitution and the law as incorporated in his/her

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oath of office under Article 159 of the Indian constitution in the administration of the State affairs.

- All his/her actions, recommendations and supervisory powers over the executive and legislative entities of a State shall be used to implement the provisions of the Constitution.

**In this respect, the governor has many different types of powers:**

- Executive powers related to administration, appointments and removals,
- Legislative powers related to lawmaking and the state legislature, that is Vidhan Sabha or Vidhan Parishad,
- Discretionary powers to be carried out according to the discretion of the governor

**FIFA has launched the official ball for Under-17 football World Cup**

- The ball will be called Krasava
- Krasava is a word generally used by Russian sports fans to describe

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a striking performance and it is the ultimate praise for a team when they play with creativity and flair.

- The ball is manufactured by 'Adidas'
- The pattern features a striking red design with jagged lines running through it
- The ball will be seen on-pitch for the first time on October 6.

## **FIFA U-17 World Cup 2017**

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- The 2017 FIFA U-17 World Cup is 17th edition of the FIFA U-17 World Cup
- It is the biennial international men's youth football championship contested by the U17 national teams of the member associations of FIFA.
- The tournament will be hosted by India between 6th and 28 October 2017.
- This will be the first FIFA tournament hosted by the country.

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- The final will be held at the Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata on 28 October 2017

### **Aparna Kumar Becomes the First Indian Woman to Scale Mt Manaslu**

- IPS Officer of Uttar Pradesh Cadre, Aparna Kumar became the first Indian woman to scale Mount Manaslu
- Mount Manaslu is the eighth highest mountain peak in the world.
- On September 25, she took up a mission to climb Mount Manaslu in the west-central part of Nepal.
- She started her mountaineering passion in the year 2013 when she was posted at UP's Moradabad. She enrolled herself in the basic mountaineering course at the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Mountaineering and Allied Sports, Manali.

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- She has already successfully scaled the highest peaks of six continents out of seven continents.
- In May last year, she climbed Mount Everest before scaling Mount Vinson Massif, the highest peak in Antarctica.
- In 2014, she scaled Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, the highest peak on the African continent.

### **IREDA Becomes First Indian Financial Agency to Raise Funds Overseas**

- The state-owned Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) has become the first Indian financial institution to raise 'green masala bonds'.
- Ireda has got \$300-million for financing projects that are beneficial for the environment
- Ireda would now also finance transmission projects which include 'green corridors' for evacuation of



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renewable energy and storage solutions.

- The masala green bond issue on the London Stock Exchange got a subscription of 1.7 times. The coupon rate for the bond is 7.125%.

## Introduction of Masala Bonds

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- The bonds listed on the London Stock Exchange (LSE) is termed as Masala Bonds. These bonds are offered and settled in US dollar to hike Indian Rupee in International market . These bonds helps to raise Indian rupees from International investors for infrastructural development in India.

## About IREDA

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- Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA) is a Mini Ratna (Category – I) Government of India Enterprise under the administrative control of Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).

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- It is a Public Limited Government Company established as a Non-Banking Financial Institution in 1987 engaged in promoting, developing and extending financial assistance for setting up projects relating to new and renewable sources of energy and energy efficiency/conservation with the motto: "ENERGY FOR EVER"

## Objectives

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- To give financial support to specific projects and schemes for generating electricity and / or energy through new and renewable sources and conserving energy through energy efficiency.
- To strive to be competitive institution through customer satisfaction.
- To maintain its position as a leading organization to provide efficient and effective financing in renewable energy and energy efficiency / conservation projects.
- Improvement in the efficiency of services provided to customers

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through continual improvement of systems, processes and resources.

## **Team India Wins Enactus World Cup 2017**

- Team India which was represented by students of Shaheed Sukhdev College of Business Studies Delhi, won the Enactus World Cup 2017.
- The winning projects included Mission RAAHAT and project UDAAN.
- Mission RAAHAT works to eradicate open defecation and provide safe sanitation in urban slum communities
- Project UDAAN aims to bridge the digital divide between urban and rural India by setting up computer centres.
- Enactus, an international nonprofit organisation with 72,000 students from 1,700 universities in 36 countries
- It is dedicated to nurturing the entrepreneurial skills of students, and to addressing fundamental

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social and economic challenges by creating experiential learning opportunities for students to use their entrepreneurial skills to transform communities.

- It provides a platform for teams of outstanding university students to create community development projects that put people's own ingenuity and talents at the center of improving their livelihoods.

### **Nirmala Sitharaman Inaugurated Pratham-Shyok bridge in Leh**

- Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has inaugurated the Pratham—Shyok bridge.
- This bridge will link Leh to Karakoram, providing connectivity on the strategically important Darbuk—Shyok—Daulat Beg Olde axis for military transport.
- The bridge is a major development on the Shyok Gong river
- It will enhance travel of locals as well as the Army in this strategic region.

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- It will increase travel and communication for strategic transport.

**"Constructing roads and bridges in difficult terrains would help in development and progress of the nation and its people" Defence Minister said**

## **New Wetland Conservation Rules Notified by Environment Ministry**

- The Centre has notified a new set of rules under the head Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 replacing the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010.
- The new rules will replace the 2010 version of the rules.

### **Highlights of the rules**

- Encroachments on wetlands stand is banned.
- Solid waste dumping, discharge of untreated waste and effluents from industries, cities, towns, villages,

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and other human settlements into wetlands is banned

- A State Wetlands Authority in each State and union territories that will be headed by the State's environment minister will be set up.
- The powers have been given to the State governments so that protection and conservation work can be done at the local level. Central government has mainly retained powers regarding monitoring
- A National Wetlands Committee, which will be headed by the MoEFCC Secretary will investigate and oversee the proper implementation of the policies.
- The Kerala Sasthra Sahithya Parishad (KSSP) was in the forefront in expressing reservations over the draft proposals and the KSSP had submitted a set of 14 objections with suggestions "for correcting the anomalies".
- An integrated management plan for each wetland in the new

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notification was a suggestion placed by the KSSP.

## What are wetlands?

- Wetlands can be defined as lands transitional between terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems where the water table is usually at or near the surface or the land is covered by shallow water.
- They support rich biodiversity and provide a wide range of ecosystem services such as water storage, water purification, flood mitigation, erosion control, aquifer recharge and others.
- There are at least 115 wetlands that are officially identified by the central government and of those 26 are identified as wetlands of international importance under Ramsar Convention which is an international intergovernmental treaty for the conservation of wetlands.
- India is a party to the treaty.

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## **Mridul Kumar Appointed as High Commissioner to Malaysia**

- Mridul Kumar has been appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to Malaysia.
- He is currently working as the Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs
- He is expected to take up the assignment shortly.
- Mridul Kumar will replace T.S. Tirumurti who assumed his current assignment as the High Commissioner of India to Malaysia on 20th December 2013.

## **About Malaysia**

- Malaysia is a federal constitutional monarchy located in Southeast Asia.
- It consists of thirteen states and three federal territories
- The capital city is Kuala Lumpur, while Putrajaya is the seat of the federal government.



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- The head of state is the king, known as the Yang di-Pertuan Agong. Current Yang di-Pertuan Agong is Muhammad V.
- He is an elected monarch chosen from the hereditary rulers of the nine Malay states every five years. The head of government is the prime minister. Current President is Najib Razak

### **Palestine Becomes Full Member of INTERPOL**

- The International Police Organization or Interpol has accepted Palestine as its new member.
- Interpol also accepted Solomon Islands as a new member making it a 192-member organization
- The decision was taken during the annual meeting of the Interpol that was held in Beijing.
- More than the required two-thirds majority with 74 member countries approved the proposal and 24 opposed it.

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- It will boost Palestine's international status
- Interpol will now listen to complaints from Palestine about alleged acts of terrorism from the Israeli side
- India was the first country to recognise Palestine and later backed its membership to the United Nations
- Palestine applied for membership in 2015. Last July, it sent a formal letter promising not to use the organization "for any political, military, racial or religious interventions or activities" and promising to cooperate with Interpol activities, according to the minutes of the Interpol meeting.

## **About Interpol**

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- The International Police Organization or INTERPOL is an intergovernmental organization facilitating international police cooperation.
- It was established as the International Criminal Police Commission (ICPC) in 1923

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- It chose INTERPOL as its telegraphic address in 194 and made it its common name in 1956
- Its current Secretary-General is Jürgen Stock
- Its current President is Meng Hongwei
- Its Headquarters in Lyon, France
- Its work focuses primarily on public safety and battling terrorism, crimes against humanity, genocide, environmental crime, war crimes, organized crime, piracy, illicit traffic in works of art, illicit drug production, drug trafficking, weapons smuggling, human trafficking, money laundering, child pornography, white-collar crime, cybercrime, intellectual property crime, and corruption.

## **International Translation Day: 30 September**

- The United Nations celebrated the International Translation Day for the first time on 30th September

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2017 for the first time International Translation Day.

- The day is marked to pay tribute to the work of language professionals, which plays an important role in bringing nations together, facilitating dialogue, understanding and cooperation, contributing to the development and strengthening world peace and security.
- On 24 May 2017, the General Assembly by adopting the resolution 71/288 on the role of language professionals in connecting nations and fostering peace, understanding and development declared 30 September as International Translation Day.
- Transposition of a literary or scientific work, including technical work, from one language into another language, professional translation, including translation proper, interpretation and terminology, is indispensable to preserving clarity, a positive

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climate and productiveness in international public discourse and interpersonal communication.

## **100 Most Valuable Brands List Interbrand: Apple Tops**

- Apple has once again topped the list of 100 Most Valuable Brands released every year by Interbrand. It giant was rated as the most valuable brand for the fifth consecutive year.
- Interbrand's 100 Most Valuable Brands list saw technology firms doing really well.
- Google and Microsoft were the second and third respectively in the list.
- Amazon, Samsung, and Facebook were ranked fifth, sixth, and eighth respectively.
- In the top 10 list, IBM was the tenth brand.
- Apple has been valued at \$184 billion while Google at \$141 billion. Microsoft, on the other hand, has been valued at \$79 billion.

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- Some of the non-technology brands that made it to top 10 list include Coca Cola, Toyota, and Mercedes-Benz.

## **David Harquail appointed Chairman of World Gold Council**

- Harquail has succeeded Randall Oliphant, who served as the Chairman for the past four years.
- David Harquail has led Franco-Nevada -- leading gold-focused royalty and streaming company -- since 2007.
- He previously held senior executive roles at Newmont Mining Corporation,

## **About World Gold Council**

- It is the market development organisation for the gold industry.
- It works across all parts of the industry, from gold mining to investment, and their aim is to stimulate and sustain demand for gold.

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- The World Gold Council is an association whose members comprise the world's leading gold mining companies.
- It helps to support its members to mine in a responsible way and developed the Conflict Free Gold Standard.
- It is headquartered in London United Kingdom
- CEO of the organisation is Aram Shishmanian
- It was founded in 1987

### **President Launched 'Adopt a Heritage' Project**

- President Ram Nath Kovind launched "Incredible India 2.0 Campaign", "Adopt a Heritage" project.
- The project was launched on the occasion of "World Tourism Day" which is celebrated on September 27 annually,
- Incredible India 2.0 campaign will focus on specific promotional

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plans, with greater emphasis to be given to social media,

- 'Adopt A Heritage' Project plans to entrust heritage sites to the public sector and private sector companies and individuals for the development of tourist amenities.

### **The President also launched "New Incredible India Website" .**

- "Adopt a Heritage Project launched on Wednesday, with the efforts of the Tourism Ministry, Culture
- "National Tourism Awards 2015-16" to various categories of the travel, tourism an hospitality sector were also presented.
- "In India too, the livelihood of a very large number of people is linked to the tourism industry. In the year 2016, tourism's contribution to GDP was 9.6 percent and 9.3 percent to total employment.
- The tourism industry can contribute significantly in generating permanent employment



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opportunities and eliminating poverty”.

## **Bilateral Investment Treaty between India and Belarus**

- The Union Cabinet has given its approval for signing and ratification of the Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) between the India and Belarus on Investments.
- The Treaty is supposed to increase investment flows between the two countries.
- It is expected to improve the confidence of the investors resulting in an increase in FDI and Overseas Director Investment (ODI) opportunities and this will have a positive impact on employment generation.
- The signing and ratification of a BIT between the two countries will work as a strategic initiative as Belarus is the member of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU).

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- India has already initiated the BIT text with the Kyrgyz Republic and is in talks with the Russian Federation for a new BIT, based on the Model BIT text.

## About Belarus

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- It is a landlocked country in Eastern Europe
- It is bordered by Russia, Ukraine, Poland, Lithuania and Latvia.
- Its capital and most populous city is Minsk.
- Its President is Alexander Lukashenko
- Its Prime Minister is Andrei Kobyakov